



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Michelle Wilson

FORMER WAYNE COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPUTY PLEADS GUILTY TO EXTORTION

A former Wayne County Sheriffs Deputy pleaded guilty yesterday, January 17, 2006 to one count of an Information charging her with Extortion, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Pleading guilty before U.S. District Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff was 42 year old Michelle Wilson, a former Wayne County Sheriff's Deputy who had been primarily assigned to work as a guard at the Wayne County Jail in Detroit, Michigan. Wilson had been with the Wayne County Sheriffs Department for 21 years.

"All law enforcement officials must be held to the highest standards of integrity. This office will aggressively fight corruption wherever it is found, including when it involves law enforcement officials," said U.S. Attorney Murphy.

The extortion stems from Wilson accepting money to bring unauthorized food and beverages into certain inmates in the Wayne County Jail. The Information charges that Wilson was paid \$400.00 by an unnamed accomplice for bringing the unauthorized items to inmates at

the Wayne County Jail.

At today's plea hearing, Wilson admitted that in January 2005, she was a public official assigned to work in the Wayne County Jail. She further admitted being paid \$400.00 by another person to bring unauthorized food and beverages to certain inmates at the jail. Wilson further admitted that she had no right to receive payment of the money. Under the plea agreement between the government and Wilson, she may receive a sentence of 10 to 16 months incarceration.

This case was investigated by the FBI working in conjunction with the Wayne County Sheriffs Department.

Wilson's sentencing is scheduled for April 4, 2006 before Judge Zatkoff at the federal courthouse in Port Huron, Michigan.